

Society it was voted to affiliate and co-operate with this Institute. (Proceedings for 1914, pp. 231-232.)

In view of the invitation to participate in the Congress, which is officially convened and supported by the Government of the United States and which will awaken interest in all the other American countries, the Executive Committee deemed it desirable and advisable that the Society should take part in the proceedings of the Congress and accordingly decided to postpone the Ninth Annual Meeting until that time so that it may be held in conjunction with the meeting of the Congress. It is expected not only that the members of the Society will take part in the meetings of the Section on International Law of the Congress, but that the Society itself will hold its regular meeting to discuss its own program, which will be arranged with the dates of meeting and sent out in due course, and hold its annual banquet as usual.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER POWERS CONCERNING THE WAR

The JOURNAL has supplied its readers in recent SUPPLEMENTS with the diplomatic correspondence published by the different belligerents relating to the outbreak of the war in Europe. This correspondence has been published in a number of other places in pamphlet or fugitive form, but it has been thought advisable to print it in the SUPPLEMENT to the JOURNAL so that its readers may have it in form suitable for permanent preservation and ready reference.

The voluminous proportions of these documents has, however, made it impracticable to include in the SUPPLEMENT the text of the correspondence which has taken place between the United States and belligerent countries relating to questions arising from the war regarding neutral and belligerent rights. Important portions of these documents have been and will be summarized from time to time in our editorial columns, but the full text of the correspondence is equally as interesting and valuable for permanent preservation as the diplomatic correspondence of the European governments relating to the war.

The JOURNAL is happy to announce that it has arranged to issue a special SUPPLEMENT to accompany the July number which will contain a complete collection of the diplomatic correspondence of the United States with other countries concerning the questions above mentioned which will cover the period from the outbreak of the war, namely Au-

gust 1, 1914, to June 30, 1915. In order to assure our readers of the absolute accuracy of the documents, the material will be collected and collated by the Department of State and turned over to the JOURNAL for publication.

No extra charge for the special SUPPLEMENT will be made to members of the Society and readers of the JOURNAL, but an extra edition will be run off to supply non-members at a nominal price.

THE EFFECT OF THE WAR ON INTERNATIONAL LAW

It has been common during the past few months to meet with statements that the present war in Europe has demonstrated the ineffectiveness of international law, both conventional and customary, to bind nations in their mutual intercourse in peace and to restrict and control their actions in war. In support of these assertions, we are referred to the failure of the nations now at war to appeal to the Hague tribunal, in accordance with the provisions of the convention for the pacific settlement of international disputes, before resorting to the use of force; to the conversion of a country whose neutrality had been solemnly guaranteed by long-standing treaties into one of the principal battlefields of Europe; to the atrocities and devastation in violation of the laws of land warfare and of civilization and humanity, reported in the meager news dispatches and officially charged by the belligerent governments one against the other; and to the apparent disregard or evasion of rules which we had reason to suppose would be observed in the operations of naval warfare. The conclusion drawn from these facts, real or alleged, is that it is a waste of time further to discuss the principles of international law or to advocate their more general acceptance.

Such statements, it is believed, are those of persons whose powers of perception are limited to the single problem in hand. If war had the effect on international law which we are told the present war has had or will have, the system would never have come into being and been developed through centuries of well-nigh incessant war into the strong and well-formed body of principles in which we find it at the present day. The recurrence of war affords no more reason for losing faith in international law than the recurrence of private crime would be a justification for abolishing domestic law and substituting a reign of internal anarchy. Just as a repetition of private crime moves us to increase our legal safeguards to private life and property and points the way, so also does the